

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Tsutomu Okada	Examiner:	Unassigned
Serial No:	Unassigned	Art Unit:	Unassigned
Filed:	Herewith	Docket:	17376
For:	DIATHERMIC SNARE, MEDICAL INSTRUMENT SYSTEM USING THE SNARE, AND METHOD OF ASSEMBLING THE MEDICAL INSTRUMENT SYSTEM		
		Dated:	January 26, 2004

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese UM Application KOKAI Publication No. 56-160516, published November 30, 1981;
2. Japanese UM Application KOKOKU Publication No. 6-9623, published March 16, 1994;

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Dated: January 26, 2004

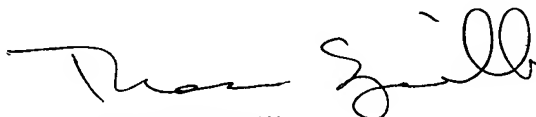

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3. Japanese UM Application KOKAI Publication No. 6-75402, published October 25, 1994;
4. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2001-275933, published October 9, 2001; and
5. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2002-45369, published February 12, 2002, corresponding to United States Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0053909 A1, published December 20, 2001, issued to Nakada et al.

Applicant is submitting copies of the above-cited Japanese references. U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003. The relevance of the above-identified references has been described in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



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Form PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
(REV. 7-80) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Atty. Docket No. (Optional)

17376

Application Number

Unassigned

Applicant(s)

Tsutomu Okada

Filing Date

Herewith

Group Art Unit

Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL*		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (if appropriate)
	AA	2001/0053909 A1	12/20/01	Nakada et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		56-160516	11/30/81	Japan				
		6-9623	3/16/94	Japan				
		6-75402	10/25/94	Japan				
		2001-275933	10/9/01	Japan				
		2002-45369	2/12/02	Japan				

OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.